Board of Trade Journal

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Owing to the renewal of the printing dispute the "Board of Trade Journal" is again published in an abridged form. We apologise to advertisers for the omission of their announcements owing to severely restricted space. Normal publication will be resumed as soon as possible.

SEASONAL FALL IN RETAIL TRADE IN AUGUST

THE SEASONAL decline in sales during August, experienced by both samples of retail shops, was general throughout the regions in most categories of goods. In the large-scale shops total turnover was 5 per cent. lower than in July, but 13 per cent. higher than a year earlier. Sales of non-food goods were 15 per cent. higher than in August 1949, and the changes for the three sections followed the same pattern as in the last few months; multiple sales were up by 18 per cent., those of co-operative societies by 13 per cent. and department stores by 8 per cent. Compared with July, non-food sales were lower by 9 per cent. and food sales by 2 per cent.

Turnover in apparel fell by 11 per cent. in August. For women's wear, sales of which were down by 10 per cent., the three types of large-scale shops showed somewhat similar movements, but in the case of men's wear sales where the total sample fell by 13 per cent., multiples reported a decline of only 4 per cent., against falls of 20 per cent. for both department stores and co-operative societies. Similarly, in footwear, sales by multiples were down by 4 per cent., while those by department stores and co-operative societies were lower by 17 per cent. and 11 per cent., respectively. The falls in apparel sales by the sample of independent retailers were 16 per cent. for women's wear (a greater decline than that reported by any of the large-scale shops), 13 per cent. for men's wear and 9 per cent. for footwear. Compared with a year earlier, sales of women's wear were higher by 19 per cent., and those of men's wear by 28 per cent. Multiple shops were again outstanding with increases of 44 per cent. and 58 per cent., respectively; co-operative societies reported rises of about 14 per cent. in both categories, while sales by department stores were up by only 2 per cent. for women's wear and by 11 per cent. for men's and boys' wear. Department stores reported the smallest increase (1 per cent.) in footwear sales, turnover by multiple shops and co-operative societies being higher by 8 per cent. and 9 per cent., respectively. Independent retailers' sales increased over the year by 4 per cent. for drapers, 14 per cent. for men's wear and 9 per cent. for footwear.

The value of household goods sold by large-scale shops was 5 per cent. less than in July; sales of hardware, electrical and radio were unchanged, but those of furniture and furnishings were 8 per cent. down on the month. The comparison with a year earlier shows increases of 17 per cent. and 19 per cent., respectively. Independent retailers experienced falls of 6 per cent. in sales of both

classes of goods compared with July, and increases of 3 per cent. and 10 per cent., respectively, compared with August 1949.

Duplicated copies of the main retail trade statistics which it has not been possible to publish in this article may be obtained on application to the Board of Trade, Statistics Division, Thames House North, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Trade of Large-Scale Retailers in August

	Percentage Change 1950 c.f. 1949			Index Nos. of Sales
	Sales		Stocks	
	August	Feb.-Aug.	August	August
Grocery and provisions	+18	+17	-	141
Bakery,	+17	+16	-	-
Wines, spirits, etc.	+ 2	- 3	-	-
Fresh meat	+24	+38	-	-
Fish, poultry and game	- 8	-14	-	-
Fresh milk	+ 3	+ 2	-	-
Fruit, etc.	-16	- 2	-	-
Sweets and chocolate	+57	+20	-	-
Tobacco, etc.	+ 2	nil	-	120
Café and restaurant	- 5	- 5	-	113
TOTAL FOOD	+12	+11	+ 3	134
Women's and children's Wear	+19	+ 6	- 1	124
Women's outerwear	+26	+ 9	-13	128
Women's underwear	+38	+17	+ 3	185
Women's hose	+26	+10	+15	-
Millinery, etc.	+ 3	- 2	- 6	-
Girl's and childwear	+15	+ 6	+ 1	149
Dress materials	- 6	- 7	+13	93
Men's and boys' wear	+28	+13	+ 5	161

	Percentage Change 1950 c.f. 1949			Index Nos. of Sales
	Sales		Stocks	
	August	Feb.-Aug.	August	August
Footwear	+ 8	- 1	+18	119
Goods	+ 8	- 1	-	-
Repairs	+11	+ 7	-	-
Furniture, etc.	+19	+13	+ 7	134
Furniture and bedding	+15	+12	-	125
Furn. fabrics, etc.	+33	+14	-	142
Floor coverings	+14	+12	-	-
Total - Hardware, electrical and radio	+17	+10	+ 4	110
Hardware	+19	+ 6	-	-
Music, etc.	- 6	- 8	- 1	-
Books and stationery	- 3	- 6	-11	-
Total - Jewellery, leather, etc.	+ 2	- 1	- 4	-
Leather, etc.	+ 6	- 1	-	-
Chemists' wares	+10	+11	+13	122
Sports and cycles	+ 1	- 4	+16	-
Misc. and unspecified	+ 5	+ 9	+19	-
ALL NON-FOOD	+15	+ 8	+ 8	126
ALL MERCHANDISE	+13	+10	+ 8	130

Trade of Independent Retailers in August

	Index Nos. of Sales	Percentage Change 1950 c.f. 1949	
	August	Aug.	Feb.-Aug.
Drapers	105	+ 4	- 3
Men's Wear: Total	117	+14	+ 1
Outfitters	120	+14	nil
Bespoke Tailors	114	+13	+ 2
Boot and Shoe Retailers	116	+ 9	- 1
Furniture Dealers	122	+10	+10

	Index Nos. of Sales	Percentage Change 1950 c.f. 1949	
	August	Aug.	Feb.-Aug.
Hardware, etc: Total	91	+ 3	+ 3
Radio, etc.	95	+10	+11
Booksellers, etc.	97	+ 7	+ 3
Jewellers	99	+ 5	nil
Chemists	108	+ 3	+ 3
Toys, Sports Goods, etc.	108	+ 5	nil
Motor and Cycle Dealers, etc.	138	+ 6	+ 6

Packaging in the United States. A SPECIALIST TEAM on Packaging sent to the U.S.A. by the Anglo-American Council on Productivity, under the Marshall Aid plan, have presented a detailed report of their tour. The report describes the latest methods of packaging processes and methods both for preserving the product and attracting the customer, the benefits that are to be derived from scientific research, and the American ways of approach to all aspects of packaging. Copies of the Report, price 2s. 6d., post free, may be obtained from the Anglo-American Council on productivity, 21, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

Yarn Production in Cotton Industry. WITH SEVERAL DISTRICTS still on holiday, production of cotton spun rayon and mixture yarns, including waste, for the week ended September 16, 1950, was 18.41 million lbs. This compares with 19.74 million lbs. in the previous week and 17.37 for the corresponding week of 1949.

Total production for the 37 weeks ended September 16, was 736.91 million lbs. against 690.34 million lbs. in the corresponding period last year.

The number of operatives at work decreased to 108,110, compared with 108,270 in the previous week.

Industrial Woodpulp Consumption and Stocks. Receipts, consumption and stocks in the United Kingdom of industrial woodpulp for the manufacture of rayon and transparent wrappings in July (4 weeks) were as follows:-

	Tons
Receipts at user's premises	13,657
Amount used	14,171
Stock (end of period)	57,216

Import and Export Prices in August

THE INDEX number of total import prices in August was one point higher than in July at 135 per cent. of the 1947 average.

The index for food, drink and tobacco imports remained at the July level (125), an increase in cocoa prices being offset by seasonal reductions for fruit and vegetables. Raw materials import prices showed a further increase of three points to 157 per cent. of the 1947 average, the most important individual increases being for cotton and rubber; the index for manufactured goods increased from 124 to 126 (1947 = 100).

The index of total export prices remained at the July figure of 121 (1947 = 100). Prices of manufactured goods were again 19 per cent. above the 1947 level and the index numbers for each of the three main subdivisions of manufactured goods also showed no change compared with July.

	Prices of Imports					Prices of Exports				
	Total	Food, drink and tobacco	Raw materials	Manufactured goods		Total	Articles wholly or mainly manufactured: Total	Metal goods	Textiles	Other manufactures
	(1947 = 100)					(1947 = 100)				
1949 August	111	107	116	106	1949 August	113	113	114	117	108
September	110	107	118	105	September	113	113	114	116	106
October	116	115	125	117	October	113	113	114	115	106
November	120	116	125	120	November	114	113	115	114	106
December	122	116	130	121	December	115	113	115	115	106
1950 January	124	118	134	121	1950 January	116	114	116	116	107
February	125	118	136	123	February	116	115	117	118	108
March	128	119	143	124	March	118	116	117	119	109
April	131	122	148	123	April	118	116	117	120	109
May	132	124	148	124	May	119	117	117	124	110
June	132	125	148	124	June	119	118	117	125	110
July	134	125	154	124	July	121	119	119	126	111
August	135	125	157	126	August	121	119	119	126	111

Trade of Wholesale Textile Houses in August

Sales by the wholesale textile houses recovered during August, total home trade rose by 29 per cent. during the month, but was 6 per cent. lower than in August 1949. Total stocks rose by 1 per cent. during the month.

The index numbers of sales during August were:- Total home trade 108; Women's and children's wear 104; Men's and boys' wear 119; Piece goods 115; and Export 126. The index numbers of stock at the end of August were:- Total home trade 184; Women's and children's wear 162; Men's and boys' wear 257; Piece goods 216. These index numbers are a continuation of the series which are usually published, and such footnotes as accompanied past tables still apply.

Percentages of Corresponding Values for 1949

Class of Merchandise	Sales: August	Sales: January to August	Stocks at end of August
Household textiles	113.1	109.6	131.3
Dress materials	91.0	109.0	145.3
Total Women's wear	92.8	93.3	141.5
Coats, costumes, raincoats, etc.	83.2	81.4	127.1
Knitted outerwear, etc.	117.6	109.7	201.0
Millinery and artificial flowers	96.5	95.1	88.3
Ladies' hose	93.6	95.7	143.2
Knitted underwear (excluding locknit)	92.4	90.1	196.2
Other underwear (including sanitary goods)	102.4	102.3	230.6
Girls' and children's wear	92.9	94.4	144.5
Haberdashery, trimmings, buttons etc.	88.6	91.3	93.5
Total Men's and boys' wear	98.0	108.2	142.2
Ready-made clothing	83.7	95.8	156.1
Gloves	76.2	85.8	96.6
Boots and shoes	92.6	86.4	109.0
Furnishings	102.3	99.3	122.6
Fancy departments	92.0	95.3	85.9
Sports and travel	116.3	84.2	250.1
Miscellaneous	90.8	96.7	114.2
Total (including some items not allocated to classes)	95.8	98.7	136.1

Higher Maximum Prices for Roll-On Elastic Belts. The Board of Trade have made a new Order amending The Utility Corsets (Manufacture and Supply) Order, 1950, and providing higher manufacturers' maximum prices for roll-on elastic belts. The increases amount to 3½ per cent. and are due to higher costs of materials. The new Order, The Utility Corsets (Manufacture and Supply) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1950, S.I. 1950 No. 1604, price 1d. (by post 2d.) comes into force on October 9 and copies may be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C. and branches, or through any bookseller or newsagent.

Inspectors Appointed to Investigate Affairs of P. B. Cow and Co. Ltd. Pursuant to the powers conferred on them by Section 165 (b) of the Companies Act 1948, the Board of Trade have appointed Sir Alan Rae Smith K.B.E., Chartered Accountant, and Mr. K. D. Cole, Solicitor, to act as Inspectors to investigate the affairs of P. B. Cow and Co. Ltd.

HOME NEWS SECTION

Torquay Tariff Conference Opens

THE TORQUAY Tariff Conference was declared open on Thursday September 28 by Mr. Dana L. Wilgress, Chairman of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (G.A.T.T.), the delegates having been first officially welcomed by the Mayor of Torquay, (Mr. T. F. Adams) at a meeting held in Torquay Pavilion. The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Harold Wilson, also welcomed the delegates in his dual capacity as leader of the United Kingdom Delegation and representative of the host country. Other speeches were made by the delegates for France and Peru, the latter on behalf of the countries which expect to accede to the G.A.T.T., and by the delegates for the U.S.A.

On Friday the 29th there was a meeting of heads of delegations, followed by a meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee, which elected as Chairman of the Conference Mr. D. L. Wilgress (the chief delegate of Canada), and as Vice-Chairmen Mr. C. O. Gisle (Sweden), Mr. J. M. Troncoso (Dominican Republic), and Mr. Pio Pedroso(Philippines). Rules of procedure were adopted and a Tariff Negotiations Working Party appointed, the main duty of which is to schedule the many bi-lateral negotiations which are required.

The first actual negotiations started on Monday, and a considerable number were in progress at the time of going to press.

Maximum Prices for New Groups of Women's and Maids' Utility Outerwear

THE BOARD OF TRADE have made an amendment to the current Order governing the manufacture and supply of women's and maids' utility outerwear.

This Order specifies a number of additional utility woollen, worsted and worsted/rayon blend cloths for overcoats, tailored costumes, tailored jackets and skirts. An advance announcement was made about these cloths last week.

All the cloths specified (including those now added to the Schedule) for overcoats, tailored costumes, tailored jackets and skirts have been arranged in six groups and one maximum price applies to garments made from any of the cloths included in a group. Maximum prices which allow for the higher cost of the cloth have been provided in the case of the groups which contain cloths dearer than those hitherto specified for these garments. The maximum prices for tailored jackets and skirts are two thirds and one third respectively of the maximum prices for tailored costumes made from the same cloths.

The result of these changes is that the maximum prices for overcoats, tailored costumes and skirts made from cloths previously specified for these garments are increased, with the exception of those for overcoats and tailored costumes of 208, 208A and 209D which are unchanged. The maximum prices for tailored jackets made from 208, 208A, 209D, 210E/2, 210F/1, 219/1, 219/2 and 219A/1 are lower but those made from other cloths are higher.

There are also increases in the maximum prices for women's cord breeches and in the maximum prices for women's and maids' dresses made from some cotton cloths.

The new Order, The Utility Apparel (Women's and Maids' Outerwear) (Manufacture and Supply) (Amendment) Order, 1950: S.I. 1950 No. 1605 price 3d. comes into operation on October 9. Copies can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office.

Distributors' Revised Maximum Prices for Mens' and Youths' Utility Outerwear

THE BOARD OF TRADE have made an order which brings into force Supplement No. 3 to Related Schedule No. 1J (price 6d.). This Supplement amends the Related Schedule as follows:-

Wholesalers' and retailers' overriding maximum prices for mens' and youths' utility outerwear made from wool cloth are revised to correspond with the recent manufacturers' Order (S.I. 1950 No. 1521). Some of the maximum prices have been increased and others remain the same. In addition, overriding maximum prices are set out for garments made from a number of new wool and worsted rayon cloths recently scheduled in the manufacturers' Order. Examples of the changes are as follows:-

(a) the overriding maximum price on sale by retail for a man's three piece suit in 227B has risen from 192/8 to 199/8.

(b) the overriding maximum price on sale by retail for a man's three piece suit made from the newly scheduled worsted/rayon cloth 242 will be 129/11.

The amounts which may be added to the scheduled overriding maximum price for lined garments have been increased.

The new Order, the Utility Apparel (Maximum Prices and Charges) Order, 1949 (Amendment No. 13) Order, 1950, is being published by H.M. Stationery Office, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 and branches or through any bookseller, and will come into force on Tuesday October 17. (S.I. 1950 No. 1606 price 1d., by post 2d.)

Increase in Prices of Galvanised Hollow-Ware

THE BOARD OF TRADE, in consultation with the Central Price Regulation Committee, have made an Order * which permits manufacturers of galvanised hollow-ware to increase their prices by a further 6 per cent. with effect from October 6, over and above the 5 per cent. increase which has been permitted since July 3. This increase in price is due to increases in the price of zinc.

* The General Hollow-ware (Maximum Prices) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1950.

Registrations of British and Foreign Films

THE FOLLOWING are details of films registered by the Board of Trade under the Cinematograph Films Acts 1938 and 1948 during the week ended Tuesday, October 3, 1950.

Title of Film	Registered in the Name of	Maker's Name	Registered No.	Length (feet)	Date of Registration
		BRITISH			
Gone to Earth	British Lion Film Corp. Ltd.	British Lion Production Assets Ltd.	BR/E14377	10,016	September 28
Her Favourite Husband	Renown Pictures Corp. Ltd.	Orlux Films Ltd.	BR/E14378	7,550	September 28
The Undefeated	Associated British-Pathe Ltd.	World Wide Pictures Ltd. for Central Office of Information	BR/E14379	3,147	September 30
Eye Witness No: 16	International Film Distributors Ltd.	National Film Board of Canada	BR/E14380	889	September 30
Eye Witness No: 17	"	"	BR/E14381	968	September 30
This is the Life	New Realm Pictures Ltd.	New Realm Pictures Ltd.	BR/E14382	3,215	September 30

BR/E indicates that the film is an Exhibitors' Quota Film.

New Credit Facility for Exporters to North America

THE JOINT VENTURE, a new facility for the exporter to North America, has been announced this week by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. This facility is claimed by the Department to be unique in the history of credit insurance. It is based on the principle of partnership in the exporter's North American trading, and is designed to give a comprehensive cover against the risks of the North American market. The Department and the exporter become partners in a Joint Venture, which may be described as a limited partnership, for a period of between four and seven years. The Department takes its share of the final loss, if there is any, but shares in the profits of the venture only to the extent of the premium which it charges for the facility.

Experience has already shewn that this new facility will be welcomed by the exporter who is prepared to make a serious effort to establish a lasting trade with North America. Some exporters may have been deterred from entering the North American market, or from increasing their existing business there, by the risks of a fall in present high prices of raw materials, of cancellation of orders due to changes of style, of the possibility of tariff changes or of the imposition of import licensing. Others may not have been willing to take the risk of manufacturing goods in advance of firm orders. The Joint Venture can cover these risks.

Fuller information about the Joint Venture facility may be had from any of the Branch Offices of the Export Credits Guarantee Department. A list of addresses of the branches appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" on June 3, page 1185.

Reliefs and Exemptions from Quota for Cinematograph Exhibitors

THE CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS ACT, 1948, provides that, where certain conditions are satisfied, the obligation of an exhibitor to show a quota of British films may be reduced by the Board of Trade by such amount as the Board may specify. The conditions relate to the competition confronting each particular cinema. The Act also contains provision that, if these conditions are satisfied at a cinema whose net weekly takings have averaged less than £100, the exhibitor may apply to the Board to be entirely exempted from quota.

Applications for reliefs and exemptions for 2,272 cinemas have been received by the Board under these provisions of the Act. In accordance with the advice of the Cinematograph Films Council, the Board have given reduced quotas for first feature films for the year beginning October 1, 1950 to a total of 1,379 cinemas, and have given total exemption from quota to a further 203. The reduced quotas vary from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. (compared with the standard quota of 30 per cent.)

The Board have now compiled a list giving details of the decisions and this list may be consulted at the Board of Trade.

International Wool Study Group. The fourth meeting of the International Wool Study Group was opened in London on Monday by the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Harold Wilson. About 24 countries were represented including the United States, Australia, the Union of South Africa, New Zealand, and other principal wool producing and consuming countries. The discussions will continue until October 14 when a further announcement will be made.

Later Cheap Telephone Calls. The Postmaster General announces that the extension of the period of the cheap night telephone rates, of which he gave advance notice in Parliament in July, comes into operation today. Trunk calls will now be charged at the cheap rate until 10.30 p.m., one hour later than hitherto. The cheap rate period will begin at 6.0 p.m., for all callers, including those using coin-box telephones.

Zinc Oxide Prices up £3. The zinc oxide manufacturers announce that from October 2, the prices of zinc oxide, in lots of not less than 2 tons, delivered buyers' premises, are increased by £3 as follows:-

	New Prices	Old Prices
Red Seal	£139 10s.	£136 10s.
Green Seal	£141 0s.	£138 0s.
White Seal	£142 0s.	£139 0s.

OVERSEAS TRADE SECTION

New Anglo-German Trade Arrangements

AN AGREED MINUTE on Anglo-German trade, which was initialled in London on August 16, has been approved by the Governments of the United Kingdom and of the Federal Republic of Germany and has now been signed. This was announced by the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Harold Wilson, in Berlin last Sunday in his speech at the opening of the British Pavilion at the Berlin Industrial Exhibition.

The agreement takes into account the measures of liberalization of trade announced by the two Governments in accordance with their obligations as members of the European Payments Union, and provides also for trade between the Federal Republic on the one hand and the United Kingdom and its dependent overseas territories on the other hand, in certain other commodities which do not come within the liberalization measures. The agreement comes into effect immediately with retrospective effect insofar as non-liberalized items are concerned to July 1, 1950.

Both Governments further recognize the desirability of allowing the greatest possible freedom for "invisible" current transactions. The German Government has undertaken to allow, with certain exceptions (such as transfers in connection with capital transactions, insurance and private travel), transfers arising from such transactions between residents of the Federal Republic and residents of the United Kingdom and its dependent overseas territories, similar to those already allowed by His Majesty's Government. The German Government has also stated its intention to grant fully reciprocal treatment in this matter to the United Kingdom as soon as it is in a position to do so.

Indian Import Control

THE ESTABLISHED importers quota for the import of Italians of sateen weave (Part IV Serial No. 195 of the Indian I.T.C. Schedule) is increased to 100 per cent. Licences for the import of wood and timber (excluding sandal, ply and tagar wood) (Part V Serial No. 42 of Indian I.T.C. Schedule) will be granted freely to actual users and the established importers quota is raised to 100 per cent.

Telegraphic advice states that applications for the import of non-ferrous metals mentioned in Public Notes No. 34 I.T.C./PN/50 (See "Board of Trade Journal" of July 15, 1950) including those covered by Open General Licence XX until December 31, 1950 (See "Board of Trade Journal" of August 26, 1950) will now be entertained for the period January-June 1951. Certain amendments have also been made to the licensing regulations for the current period of the non-ferrous metal items not covered by Open General Licence XX. Details may be obtained from Tariff Section Commercial Relations and Exports Department, Board of Trade, Thames House North, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Special Exchange Rates for Exports from Spain

THE FOLLOWING new sterling exchange rates for certain Spanish exports have been announced by the Spanish Government:-

Commodity	No. of Pesetas to the £ sterling
Salts of Potash	45.990
+ Hazelnuts	52.122

+ Consequent upon the publication of this special exchange rate for hazelnuts, the previous rate for this commodity which was published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of December 10, 1949 no longer applies.

Publication of German Liberalisation List. The Federal German Government has announced the extension to the United Kingdom and her Dependent Overseas Territories of a list of goods for which unrestricted entry into the Federal Republic will be granted as from September 26. Copies will be available at the Board of Trade shortly.

Economic and Commercial Conditions in Australia and Ecuador. Surveys of Economic and Commercial Conditions in Australia and Ecuador have been published by H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., (price 4s.0d., 4s.4d. post free and 1s.6d., 1s.8d. post free) respectively. These are the latest volumes in the series of Overseas Economic Surveys issued by the Commercial Relations and Export Department of the Board of Trade. A limited number of copies are available at the Board of Trade Press Office, Millbank, London, S.W.1. These publications will be reviewed in the "Board of Trade Journal" when space permits.

Burma. For latest information regarding Import Licences, enquiries should be addressed to Commercial Relations and Export Department, Tariff Section, Room 1087, Thames House North. (Vic. 9040, Ext. 3030).

Japanese Import Regulations. Copies of the latest Japanese Import Programme may be obtained from the Board of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Department, Tariff Section, Room 3122, Thames House North, Millbank, London, S.W.1. Tele. Vic. 9040. Ext. 3036.

Invoices for Exports to the Philippine Republic. The attention of exporters to the Philippines is drawn to the fact that Purchase Tax payable in the United Kingdom should not be shown in any way on invoices for exports to the Philippines. Such tax is not considered by the Philippine Customs Authorities as part of the Home Market Value for the assessment of import duty. In spite of this fact, however, if the tax appears on the invoice it sometimes transpires that duty on a value which includes such tax is erroneously charged with subsequent trouble in obtaining a refund.

Pakistan Import Trade Control. The United Kingdom Trade Commissioner in Karachi has forwarded a copy of a public notice dated September 9, 1950, issued by the Government of Pakistan stating that import licences for the shipping period January-June, 1950, issued on or after May 1, 1950 for imports at Chittagong only and valid for all countries except American Account Area, Switzerland, Liechtenstien, India and Japan up to June 30, 1950, shall remain valid for five months from the date of issue. No further extension will be granted.

United States Tariff Classification

A UNITED STATES Treasury Decision (TD 52536), published on August 17, announces that sheets of wood, regardless of thickness, quality, or intended use, produced by the rotary cutting or the slicing of logs in flitches, and sheets of wood, up to but not exceeding ¼ inch in thickness, produced by sawing and of a type used to overlay inferior material, are commercially known and dealt in in the United States as veneers of wood and are so classifiable under Paragraph 405, Tariff Act of 1930, as modified. Therefore sheets of wood produced by rotary cutting for use as core stock in making plywood are dutiable as veneers of wood at the rate of 10 per cent. under that paragraph, as modified, regardless of their thickness and even though unsuited for use as face sheets.

In some cases this ruling may result in the assessment of duty at a higher rate than has heretofore been assessed under a uniform and established practice.

Pakistan Drugs Act and Rules

THE UNITED KINGDOM Trade Commissioner at Karachi has reported that the Government of Pakistan have decided to postpone until July 1, 1951 the restrictions, imposed under Section 10, Clause (d) of the Drugs Act, 1940, which require that a list of ingredients of the patent or proprietory medicine be displayed on the label or container thereof. It is also reported that under notification No. F.27-3(IV)/49-M.S. & G. issued on July 9, 1950, the Central Government announce the cancellation of all previous notifications relating to the date of implementation of sub-rules (1) and (3) of Rule 103 of the Drug Rules, 1945, under which it is required that the name and address of the manufacturer should be printed on the label of the container and that the list of ingredients be printed on the outer label of every package. The present position would appear to be that no date has now been fixed for the coming into force of these sub-rules.

Extension of French Liberalisation Measures. The French "Journal Officiel" of September 28, 1950 announces that French liberalisation measures have been extended to St. Pierre and Miquelon. A copy of the official French text is available for inspection at the Board of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Department (Industries Branch), Room 1116, Thames House (North), Millbank, London, S.W.1.

German Assets in Spain. Advice has been received from Madrid of the publication in the Spanish "Boletin Oficial" of Justiprecio (Appraisal) Orders in respect of La Minera S.A. and La Fodina S.A. both of Barcelona. The valuation of the German-held shares has been given as Ptas. 4,900,000 and 1,980,000 respectively.

These assets will shortly be put up for sale. Any United Kingdom firm interested in their disposal should communicate with the German Property Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Secion de Bloqueo, Plaza Provincial I, Madrid, for full details.

Trade Commissioner Appointments. The Board of Trade announce that they have appointed Mr. M. J. Marshall as a Trade Commissioner at Montreal to replace Mr. F. I. Lamb who has been transferred to Edmonton. Mr. N. L. Hibbs has been appointed as a Trade Commissioner at Toronto.

Paraguay-Spain Trade Agreement. A Trade and Payments Agreement was signed between the Republic of Paraguay and the Government of Spain on August 25, in Asuncion. The Agreement is to remain in force for one year.

Details of the goods involved may be seen at the Board of Trade, Tariff Section, Room 2112, Thames House (North), Millbank, London, S.W.1.

New Portuguese Customs Import Tariff. A new Customs Import Tariff was published in Lisbon on September 21, 1950. Many import duties have been increased and certain items, including engineers' small and hand tools and linen threads, sub-divided. The text of the new Tariff may be seen, upon application by those interested, at the Board of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Department (Tariff Section), Room 1123, Thames House North, Millbank, S.W.1.

Alterations in Overseas Postage Rates. The Postmaster General reminds the public that the increases in postage rates to overseas countries, of which he gave advance notice in Parliament in July, came into force on Sunday, October 1. For foreign countries generally, the postage on letters not over 1 oz. in weight will become 4d. instead of 3d. and on postcards 2½d. instead of 2d. The postage rate for printed papers generally will become 1½d. for the first 2 oz. instead of 1d., but the present rate, viz., 1d. for the first 2 oz. and ½d. for each additional 2 oz., will continue to apply, under certain conditions, to newspapers, periodicals, books, pamphlets, maps and sheets of music. Leaflets containing a list of postage rates for overseas correspondence generally may be obtained at any Head Post Office.

Forthcoming Ministry of Supply Auction Sales

IN ADDITION to the Ministry of Supply Auction sales already published in the "Board of Trade Journal", the following new sales have been arranged:-

ov. 2-3. Miscellaneous stores and equipment lying at Ministry of Supply Depot 1, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. Auctioneers; Fuller, Horsey, Son & Cassell, 10, Billiter Square, London, E.C.

ov. 7-8. Miscellaneous stores and equipment lying at Ministry of Supply Depot, Burghfield, nr. Reading. Auctioneers; Simmons & Sons, 12, Station Road, Reading, Berks.

Catalogues are obtainable from the Auctioneers, price sixpence. (POSTAL ORDERS ONLY).

mports of Apples. The Minister of Food, in agreement with the Board of Trade, announces that, with effect rom January 1, 1951, apples will be added to the list of imports permitted under Open General Licence. The pen General Licence will apply to imports consigned from, and originating in, any country or territory other han those excluded in Notice to Importers No. 401 issued by the Board of Trade on September 15, 1950, as mended by Notice to Importers No. 402 of September 21, 1950.

Information for United Kingdom Exporters

Enquiries connected with the tender documents mentioned in this notice should be addressed to the Commercial Relations and Exports Department (Industries Branch), Thames House (North), Millbank, London, S.W.1. (unless otherwise stated). Telephone Victoria 9040. The appropriate room numbers and telephone extensions are as indicated.

CALLS for the following tenders have been reported to the Department. The closing date in each case is shown in brackets.

AUSTRALIA

By the Department of Public Works, Melbourne, for the supply, erection, testing and putting into operation at Morwell, Victoria, of 3 Oxygen Separation Plants and a Benzol Distillation and Rectification Plant November 11, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 1073 (Ext. 2765). Reference CRE (IB) 65171/50.

By the State Electricity Board of Queensland, on behalf of the South Burnett Regional Electricity Board, for the erection of a 66kV Transmission Line between Maryborough and Kingaroy. (December 6, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 133, I.C. House, Millbank, S.W.1. (Whitehall 5140, Ext. 443). Reference CRE (IB) 65517/50.

BELGIUM

By the Belgian State Railways, Brussels, for the supply of electro-mechanical signalling equipment. (No. 2651-443). (October 18, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 1086 (Ext. 3042). Reference CRE (IB) 65753/50.

BRAZIL

By the State Secretariat of Public Works of the State of Rio Grande do Sul for two hopper barges (October 19, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 1095 (Ext. 3077). Reference CRE (IB) 65653/50.

EGYPT

By the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo for the supply of 15 Diesel hydraulic shunting locomotives and 2 Diesel hydraulic goods pick-up locomotives. (November 6, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 1086 (Ext. 3042). Reference CRE (IB) 65673/50.

NEW ZEALAND

By the State Hydro-Electric Board at Wellington, for the supply and delivery of 11 kV. switchgear for the Kinleith Substation. (January 30, 1951). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 133, I.C. House, Millbank, S.W.1. (Whitehall 5140, Ext. 443). Reference CRE (IB) 65595/50.

URUGUAY

By the Administracion Nacional de Combustibles, Alcohol y Portland, for the supply of Asbestos plates for filtering alcoholic drinks. (November 3, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 1086 (Ext. 3024). Reference CRE (IB) 65261/50.

S. AFRICA

By the Town Clerk, City of Port Elizabeth, (No. 985) for the supply and delivery of cast iron valves, hydrants and specials to the Municipal Depot of the City and Water Engineer's Department, Port Elizabeth. (November 2, 1950). Information regarding this can be obtained from Room 133, I.C. House, Millbank, S.W.1. (Whitehall 5140, Ext. 128). Reference CRE (IB) 66056/50.

United States Tariff Classification

A UNITED STATES Treasury Decision (T.D. 52538), published on August 17, announces that sheets of wood, regardless of thickness, quality, or intended use, produced by the rotary cutting or the slicing of logs or flitches, and sheets of wood, up to but not exceeding ¼ inch in thickness, produced by sawing and of a type used to overlay inferior material, are commercially known and dealt in in the United States as veneers of wood and are so classifiable under Paragraph 405, Tariff Act of 1930, as modified. Therefore, sheets of wood produced by rotary cutting for use as core stock in making plywood are dutiable as veneers of wood at the rate of 10 per cent. under that paragraph, as modified, regardless of their thickness and even though unsuited for use as face sheets.

In some cases this ruling may result in the assessment of duty at a higher rate than has heretofore been assessed under a uniform and established practice.

Indian Import Trade Control

THE UNITED KINGDOM Trade Commissioner in New Delhi has forwarded the following information about Indian Import Trade Control Regulations:-

Open General Licence XX

The following item is added to Schedule A to Open General Licence No. XX (see "Board of Trade Journal" of August 26, 1950) and may, therefore, be imported from all sources except the Union of South Africa, without individual licence:-

Agricultural implements, tractor drawn only (falling under Serial No. 74 of Part V of the Indian I.T.C. Schedule) (S.R.O. 593 of September 12, 1950).

Silk Fabrics

(Serial No. 184, Part IV of the Indian I.T.C. Schedule). Telegraphic advice has been received that, according to an Indian Ministry of Commerce Public Notice of September 18, 1950, licences for the import from soft currency countries of silk fabrics (containing more than 90 per cent. silk) will be granted during July-December 1950 to established importers on the basis of a quota of 20 per cent. of half of best year's imports from all sources of such silk piece-goods.

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE

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